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The Process of Government: A Study of Social Pressures. By ARTHUR F. BENTLEY. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1908. Pp. xv, 504. \$3 net.)

This sociological study was reviewed at some length by Albion W. Small in the March number of the *American Journal of Sociology*. Professor Small took Mr. Bentley to task for the severity of his criticism of the emphasis which certain sociologists have placed upon feelings and faculties, and ideas and ideals as causes in human society. Mr. Bentley shows that he has a profound conviction of misrepresentation of facts by sociologists. The reader could be fully as well oriented for the constructive part of the work if the 172 pages of introduction were reduced to a clear statement covering one-tenth of this space. The constructive part of the work, entitled *Analysis of Governmental Pressures*, is an elaboration of the thesis that government proceeds by the sway of interests. It may be considered an economic interpretation of government, although the phrase "economic interpretation" nowhere appears, so far as I recall. The author labors hard to establish the thesis which economists have for decades assumed, viz, that interests dominate political and social organization. He throws no light, and does not attempt to throw any light, on the problem of subjecting and coördinating these interests to the general welfare. It is not clear that he would concede that there is a general welfare interest. He might dismiss this conception as too closely allied to what he denounces as ideas. Mr. Bentley is evidently well-read in the literature of the recent sociology. It is not apparent that he has achieved an equal mastery of the best literature in the science of economics and of politics. The ruggedness of the author's zeal and the consistency with which he holds to his task are, however, admirable, and one may expect that this essay will do good service in keeping students of society close to the earth in the study of their problems. There are many suggestive passages and the aim of the essayist to recall students of sociology to the study of the actual factors of human life as distinguished from mere concepts of philosophers is to be highly commended. In his fulminations against the use of ideas and ideals he barely escapes condemnation of the value of generalization, a factor without which inductive science is impossible.